

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1095

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend University of Tennessee basketball legend Tony White.

WHEREAS, Tony White's name is forever etched in the annals of University of Tennessee men's basketball history, as his unparalleled career on the court continues to amaze and inspire; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White, a six-foot, two-inch guard out of Charlotte, North Carolina, wore the Volunteer jersey from 1983 to 1987; he appeared in 127 games during that time, averaging 17.5 points per game, and is the third all-time leading scorer for the Tennessee Vols, with 2,219 career points; and

WHEREAS, foremost in the minds of those familiar with his career is February 14, 1987, when Tony White, whose athletic exploits earned him the moniker "The Wizard," set a single-game scoring record that remains unsurpassed to this day, racking up fifty-one points in a 103-84 victory against Auburn University; and

WHEREAS, of further note on that night, the three-point line had only recently been instituted in collegiate basketball, and Tony White sank all three attempts from behind it, as well as clinching eighteen of nineteen free throw attempts; and

WHEREAS, a two-time Southeastern Conference (SEC) scoring leader, he was named the SEC Player of the Year in 1987 and was drafted by the Chicago Bulls that same year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White is a living legend who is beloved by many Volunteer fans and members of his community, so when he learned his health was on the line in 2018, he was met with an outpouring of love, concern, and support; and

WHEREAS, Tony White received a diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia M5 on September 19, 2018; many rounds of inpatient chemotherapy and months at the University of Tennessee Medical Center followed the diagnosis, as he courageously fought for his life; and

WHEREAS, though his Volunteer basketball family and his many friends in the Knoxville area rallied around him during that time, it was inevitably Mr. White who lifted the spirits of others, offering words of inspiration and hope; and

WHEREAS, Tony White faced his cancer diagnosis with the same tenacity and confidence he exhibited on the basketball court, and it is those qualities, as well as the relentless optimism embodied in his mantra, "Full-court press, baby," that have seen him through; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many trials and successes, Mr. White has been blessed with the love and support of his wife, Barbie, and his three sons, Marquise, Tony, Jr., and Ronrico; and

WHEREAS, it was recently announced that Tony White will be inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in July 2022, a most befitting honor that recognizes his rightful place in the pantheon of Tennessee athletes; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it most appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mr. White, a "Vol for Life," for his outstanding character and determination and his legacy as a member of the University of Tennessee men's basketball team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend University of Tennessee basketball legend Tony White, congratulating him on his many achievements and extending our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.